

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-18 have been amended and new claims 19-25 have been added. Careful reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Objections/Rejections Related to the Claim 11:

In paragraph 1, claim 11 was objected to. As well appreciated by the Patent Office, claim 11 was clearly intended to depend from claim 10 and is so amended. This amendment should clearly not affect the broadest reach of the claim under the doctrine of equivalents since the scope of the claim was clearly understood and the amendment is essentially of a formality nature.

In paragraphs 2-3, claim 11 was rejected as, allegedly, being indefinite. The Patent Office's rejection is most respectfully contested. It is most respectfully submitted that this language, while broad, is clear to those in the art. Some non-limiting examples were shown in, e.g., FIG. 10A, and the claim language encompasses these examples and --broadly-- other examples within the scope of the claim.

Withdrawal of these objections is most respectfully requested.

Rejections Based On References:

In paragraphs 4-5, claims 1-10 and 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Unexamined Laid-Open Utility Model 6-68167 (the '167 reference). These rejections are most respectfully traversed, as follows.

First, it is most respectfully submitted that the '167 reference has significant deficiencies and does not teach or suggest the present invention. It is most respectfully submitted that, among other things, this Japanese reference a) does not relate to an **optical disk printer** and b) does not operate in the same manner as the preferred embodiments of the present invention (see certain claims). Applicant – who is from Japan – has reviewed and confirmed the deficiencies in this Japanese reference.

Second, in this response, both of the original independent claims 1 and 18 are now amended in a manner to more positively recite “[a] disk adapter attached to an optical disk label printer” while amending the pre-amble such that the non-limiting recited intended use is “for adapting a disk tray that can be ejected from and inserted into a printer main body.”

Third, in view of, e.g., a) the Patent Office's remarks on page 3, regarding "the

language of lines 2-8 of each of claims 1 and 18" and the language "'to be' in line 1 of each of claims 1 and 18" and b) the deficiencies of the '167 reference, it is respectfully submitted that the Patent Office should readily appreciate the allowability of the present application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 18 are improper and should be withdrawn. Additionally, the remaining rejected claims depend directly or indirectly from these independent claims. Accordingly, these dependent claims should similarly be allowable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims recite additional combinations of features that are not taught or suggested by the references. Independent consideration of each and every dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims:

It is respectfully submitted that newly added claims 19-25 recite additional combinations of features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references and that should also be allowable.

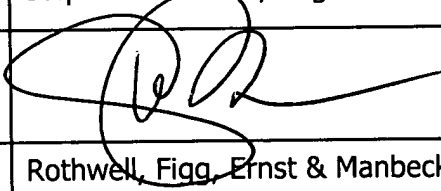
In this regard, among other things, claim 19 defines some elements using means-plus-function language (i.e., in the entire prosecution of this case, means-plus-

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function language will **nly** be invoked where "means for" and a corresponding function without corresponding structure is **expressly** claimed).

Concluding Remarks:

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. In the event that any fees are now due, please charge such to our deposit account number 02-2135.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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